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ACTION SCT-00

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-08 ACDE-00 AMAD-01 ARA-01 CIAE-00 OASY-00
DODE-00 DS-00 FBIE-00 UTED-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 JUSE-00
LAB-01 ADS-00 MMP-00 NSAE-00 ASDS-01 DSCC-00 DRL-04
G-00 /016W

-----FA7675 132119Z /38

R 132108Z NOV 97
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8659
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 005761

DEPARTMENT FOR S/CT FOR REAP

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PTER, AR
SUBJECT: ARGENTINA: 1997 ANNUAL TERRORISM REPORT

REF: STATE 203771

1. THE FOLLOWING RESPONSES ARE KEYED TO PARAGRAPH 3 IN
REFTEL.

A. ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES SENTENCED FOUR MEMBERS OF A
PURPORTED REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT KNOWN AS THE PEOPLE'S
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REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATION "ORP" FOR A VARETY OF CRIMES

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RANGING FROM EXTORTION TO THEFT. UTHORITIES BELIEVE THOSE MAINLY RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS GROUP ARE BEHIND BARS. AS MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS GROUP BECOMES KNOWN, MOST LAWENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS BELIEVE THE GROUP WAS MORE A BAND OF COMMON CRIMINALS THAT MERELY CLOAKED THEIR CRIMES IN REVOLUTIONARY RHETORIC.

B. THERE WERE NO EXTRADITIONS OF SUSPECTED TERRORISTS EITHER TO OR FROM ARGENTINA IN 1997.

C. DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE CHANGES TO THE ARGENTINE LEGAL SYSTEM TO ALLOW FOR THE USE OF PAID INFORMANTS, PLEA BARGAINING, AND UNDERCOVER AGENTS CONTINUES SLOWLY IN THE ARGENTINE LEGISLATURE. WHILE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES FAVOR THESE CHANGES, PAST ABUSES OF POLICE POWERS DURING THE MILITARY REGIMES CONTINUE TO COLOR THE IMPRESSIONS OF MUCH OF THE POPULATION BOTH WITHIN THE CONGRESS AND WITHOUT. IT REMAINS IMPOSSIBLE TO PREDICT WHEN, IF EVER, SUCH CHANGES WILL COME ABOUT.

D. WHILE THERE WERE NO SUCH STATEMENTS IN 1997, THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT, USUALLY PRESIDENT MENEM, REGULARLY DEPLORES TERRORIST ATTACKS WHICH OCCUR ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD.

E. ARGENTINE INTERIOR MINISTER CORACH CONTINUES TO WORK WITH HIS BRAZILIAN AND PARAGUAYAN COUNTERPARTS TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON THE TRI-BORDER AREA WHERE THE FRONTIERS OF THE THREE NATIONS MEET. THIS YEAR THE THREE MINISTERS AGREED TO DEVELOP INTEGRATED BORDER CONTROLS AND TO INTENSIFY EFFORTS TO HAVE THE THREE COUNTRIES' SECURITY

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SERVICES COOPERATE BETTER IN THE AREA. PLANS TO INTRODUCE NEW NATIONAL IDENTITY CARDS, WHICH COULD HELP PREVENT THE USE OF FALSE INDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS BY TERRORISTS, HAVE BEEN DELAYED. THE SELECTON OF A SUPPLIER FOR THE CARDS IS EXPECTED IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

F. THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA DOES NOT SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL TERRORISTS.

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G. THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA HAS NOT MADE ANY STATEMENTS SUPPORTING A TERRORIST-SUPPORTING COUNTRY ON A TERRORISM ISSUE.

H. THE TWO MAJOR TERRORIST ATTACKS IN ARGENTINA, THE 1992 BOMBING OF THE ISRAELI EMBASSY AND THE 1994 BOMBING OF THE AMIA JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER, REMAIN UNSOLVED WITH THE INVESTIGATIONS CONTINUING. IN AUGUST, THE SUPREME COURT (WHICH HAS JURISDICTION IN THE EMBASSY CASE) FINALLY NAMED A SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR TO PURSUE THE INVESTIGATION. THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR, ESTEBAN CANEVARI, IS PURSUING THE CLAIM OF RESPONSIBILITY BY ISLAMIC JIHAD. THE JUDGE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE AMIA BOMBING CONTINUES TO PURSUE LEADS RELATING TO THE VEHICLE USED IN THE ATTACK AS WELL AS OTHER LEADS. IN ADDITION, THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA ANNOUNCED IN AUGUST THE CREATION OF A SPECIAL 80-MAN ANTI-TERRORIST UNIT FOR THE FEDERAL POLICE CHARGED WITH INVESTIGATING BOTH BOMBINGS, AS WELL AS REACTING TO OTHER ATTACKS. MANY SPECULATE THAT THE REASON BEHIND THE NAMING OF THE SPECIAL SUPREME COURT INVESTIGATOR AND THE

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CREATION OF THE ANTI-TERRORIST UNIT WAS THE CONTINUED PUBLIC FRUSTRATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S LACK OF PROGRESS IN THESE CASES.

I. ARGENTINA HAS BEEN THE RECIPIENT OF OVER USD 4 MILLION IN ANTI-TERRORISM TRAINING. IN 1997, WE PROVIDED EXPERTS TO REVIEW THE GOA REWARDS PROGRAM, AS WELL AS TO DISCUSS OTHER TOPICS OF MUTUAL CONCERN IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM.

J. NONE ON RECORD.

K. NONE ON RECORD.

ROCHA

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